WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for the improvement of lung function, comprising administering to a mammalian subject diagnosed with a disease or condition benefiting from the improvement of lung function an effective amount of a molecule capable of inhibiting a biological activity mediated by a TGFβ-R1 kinase receptor.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said disease or condition benefiting from the improvement of lung function is selected from the group consisting of emphysema, chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pulmonary edema, cystic fibrosis, occlusive lung disease, acute respiratory deficiency syndrome (ARDS), asthma, radiation-induced injury of the lung, lung injuries resulting from infectious causes, inhaled toxins, or circulating exogenous toxins, aging and genetic predisposition to impaired lung function.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said disease or condition benefiting from the improvement of lung function involves acute lung injury.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said disease or condition benefiting from the improvement of lung function is unaccompanied by lung fibrosis.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said disease or condition benefiting from the improvement of lung function is at a stage when lung fibrosis is not a major symptom.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said molecule specifically binds to said TGFβ-R1 kinase receptor.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said molecule additionally inhibits a biological activity mediated by p38 kinase.

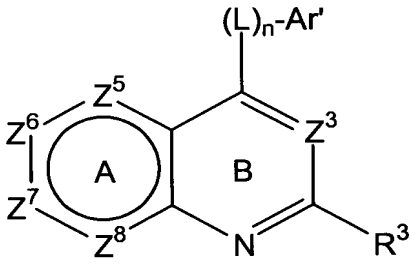
8. The method of claim 1 wherein said molecule preferentially inhibits a biological activity mediated by TGF-β-RI kinase relative to a biological activity mediated by p38 kinase.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said compound is a non-peptide small molecule.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said compound is a small organic molecule.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said small organic molecule is other than an imidazole derivative.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein said molecule is a compound of formula (1)



(1)

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof

wherein R^3 is a noninterfering substituent;

each Z is CR^2 or N, wherein no more than two Z positions in ring A are N, and wherein two adjacent Z positions in ring A cannot be N;

each R^2 is independently a noninterfering substituent;

L is a linker;

n is 0 or 1; and

Ar' is the residue of a cyclic aliphatic, cyclic heteroaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic moiety optionally substituted with 1-3 noninterfering substituents.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said compound is a quinazoline derivative.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein Z^3 is N; and Z^5-Z^8 are CR^2.

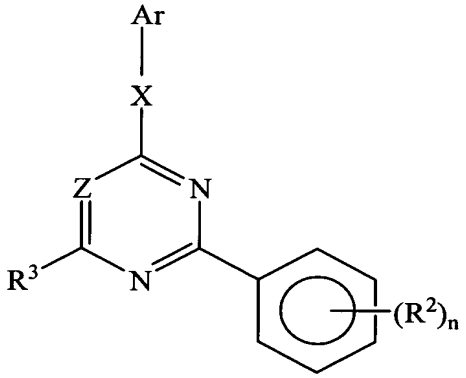
15. The method of claim 13 wherein Z^3 is N; and at least one of Z^5-Z^8 is nitrogen.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein R^3 is an optionally substituted phenyl moiety.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of 2-, 4-, 5-, 2,4- and 2,5-substituted phenyl moieties.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein at least one substituent of said phenyl moiety is an alkyl(1-6C), or halo.

19. The method of claim 10 wherein said small organic molecule is a compound of formula (2)



(2)

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrug forms thereof; wherein

Ar represents an optionally substituted aromatic or optionally substituted heteroaromatic moiety containing 5-12 ring members wherein said heteroaromatic moiety contains one or more O, S, and/or N;

X is NR^1, O, or S;

R^1 is H, alkyl (1-8C), alkenyl (2-8C), or alkynyl (2-8C);

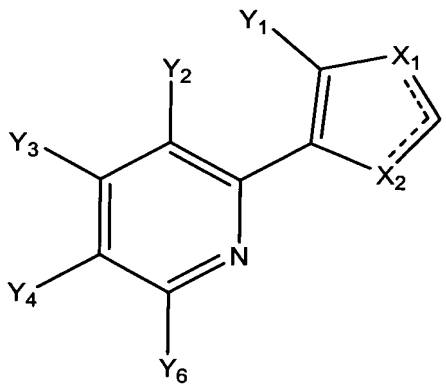
Z represents N or CR^4;

each of R^3 and R^4 is independently H, or a non-interfering substituent;

each R^2 is independently a non-interfering substituent; and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

20. The method of claim 10 wherein said small organic molecule is a compound of formula (3)

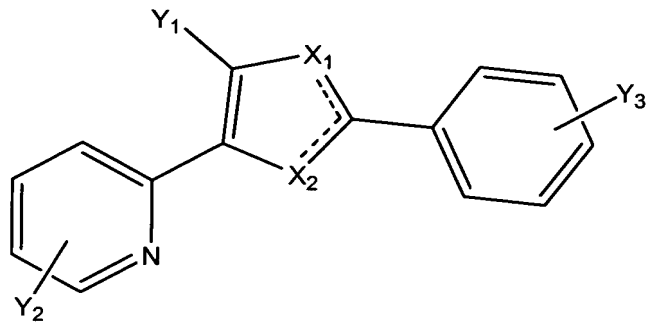


wherein Y_1 is phenyl or naphthyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from halo, alkoxy(1-6 C), alkylthio(1-6 C), alkyl(1-6 C), haloalkyl (1-6C), -O-$(CH_2)_m$-Ph, -S-$(CH_2)_m$-Ph, cyano, phenyl, and CO_2R, wherein R is hydrogen or alkyl(1-6 C), and m is 0-3; or phenyl fused with a 5- or 7-membered aromatic or non-aromatic ring wherein said ring contains up to three heteroatoms, independently selected from N, O, and

Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, and Y_5 independently represent hydrogen, alkyl(1-6C), alkoxy(1-6 C), haloalkyl(1-6 C), halo, NH_2, NH-alkyl(1-6C), or $NH(CH_2)_n$-Ph wherein n is 0-3; or an adjacent pair of Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, and Y_5 form a fused 6-membered aromatic ring optionally containing up to 2 nitrogen atoms, said ring being optionally substituted by one o more substituents independently selected from alkyl(1-6 C), alkoxy(a-6 C), haloalkyl(1-6 C), halo, NH_2, NH-alkyl(1-6 C), or $NH(CH_2)_n$-Ph, wherein n is 0-3, and the remainder of Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, and Y_5 represent hydrogen, alkyl(1-6 C), alkoxy(1-6C), haloalkyl(1-6 C), halo, NH_2, NH-alkyl(1-6 C), or $NH(CH_2)_n$-Ph wherein n is 0-3; and

one of X_1 and X_2 is N and the other is NR_6, wherein R_6 is hydrogen or alkyl(1-6 C).

21. The method of claim 10 wherein said small organic molecule is a compound of formula (4)



wherein Y_1 is naphthyl, anthracenyl, or phenyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, alkoxy(1-6 C), alkylthio(1-6 C), alkyl(1-6 C), -O-(CH_2)-Ph, -S-$(CH_2)_n$-Ph, cyano, phenyl, and CO_2R, wherein R is hydrogen or alkyl(1-6 C), and n is 0, 1, 2, or 3; or Y_1 represents phenyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to two heteroatoms, independently selected from N, O, and S;

Y_2 is H, $NH(CH_2)_n$-Ph or NH-alkyl(1-6 C), wherein n is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

Y_3 is CO_2H, $CONH_2$, CN, NO_2, alkylthio(1-6 C), -SO_2-alkyl(C1-6), alkoxy(C1-6), $SONH_2$, CONHOH, NH_2, CHO, CH_2NH_2, or CO_2R, wherein R is hydrogen or alkyl(1-6 C);

one of X_1 and X_2 is N or CR', and other is NR' or CHR' wherein R' is hydrogen, OH, alkyl(C-16), or cycloalkyl(C3-7); or when one of X_1 and X_2 is N or CR' then the other may be S or O.

22. A method for the treatment of a subject having impaired lung function comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a molecule capable of inhibiting a biological activity mediated by a TGFβ-R1 kinase receptor.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein said subject is human.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said molecule specifically binds to said TGFβ-R1 kinase receptor.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein said impaired lung function is associated with a disease or condition selected from the group consisting of emphysema, chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pulmonary edema, cystic fibrosis, occlusive lung disease, acute respiratory deficiency syndrome (ARDS), asthma, radiation-induced injury of the lung, lung injuries resulting from infectious causes, inhaled toxins, or circulating exogenous toxins, aging and genetic predisposition to impaired lung function.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein administration is in the form of a pharmaceutical composition.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein said pharmaceutical composition is suitable for oral administration.

28. The method of claim 26 wherein said pharmaceutical composition is suitable for intravenous administration.

29. The method of claim 26 wherein said pharmaceutical composition is suitable for aerosol administration.

30. The method of claim 26 wherein said pharmaceutical composition is suitable for intrapulmonary administration.